High cost of ship-berthing in India ports

1906. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that as appeared in print media that, it costs a container ship US$ 32,000 per day to use a port in India;

(b) if so, the reasons for this high cost of berthing of ships in Indian ports;

(c) the steps that would be taken to reduce the cost of berthing in Indian ports;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the turn around time for an average ship is 11.9 days; and

(e) the steps proposed to import port management in India?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Major Port Trusts collect vessel related charges as per the Scale of Rates notified by the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) from time to time. The prevailing berth hire charges in major ports for container ships varies from US$ 0.00195 per Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) per hour to US$ 0.0096" per GRT per hour. The actual payment to ports, therefore, varies with the GRT of the ship and its duration of stay at the port. The scale of rates is notified by TAMP following a cost plus minimum return on capital employed model. All vessel related charges including berth hire charges at Jawaharial Nehru Port, which handled about 60% of container traffic of the country, has been reduced by 30% in October, 2006.

(d) The turn round time of vessels in the major ports varied from 4.39 days to 1.96 days in 2005-06. The average turn round time of vessel calling at all major ports was 3.5 days for the year 2005-06.

(e) Improvement of port management is an ongoing process. This entails modernisation of equipments, mechanization of cargo handling, training of workforce, electronic data interchange, internal computerization of ports, development of Port Community System etc.